Gaining Leadership Outdoors

Experiential Learning and Environmental Awareness















Game Plan

- Cultivating new ideas: Experiential, Environmental, Outdoor, and Place-based Education
- Growing new leaders: Selected research
- Sowing seeds for volunteers: Relevant Montana programs













John Dewey

The teacher is not in the school to impose certain ideas or to form certain habits in the child, but is there as a member of the community to select the influences which shall affect the child and to assist him in properly responding to these influences.

-- Dewey, My Pedagogic Creed, 1897

- **Experiential education--direct experience and focused reflection**
- Role of the teacher: facilitator and guide









Anna Comstock

Nature-study is, despite all discussions and perversions, a study of nature; it consists of simple, truthful observations that may, like beads on a string, finally be threaded upon the understanding and thus held together as a logical and harmonious whole. Therefore, the object of the nature-study teacher should be to cultivate in the children powers of accurate observation and to build up within them understanding.

- **Pioneer of Environmental Education**
- One of the first to bring her students and other teachers out-of-doors to study nature









Kurt Hahn

Expeditions can greatly contribute towards building strength of character.

Joseph Conrad in Lord Jim tells us that it is necessary for a youth to experience events which "reveal the inner worth of the man; the edge of his temper; the fibre of his stuff; the quality of his resistance; the secret truth of his pretences, not only to himself but others."

- **WWII, Outward Bound**
- Innate morality of adolescents
- **Outdoor education**









David Sobel

Academic achievement is important, but the sole function of a school shouldn't be to turn out good test-takers. Schools should also be developing the skills of civic participation, and students should be exploring their communities and helping to make them better, healthier places to live. If it's only academics, you diminish the virtue and potential that school can achieve.

- Avoid focusing too quickly on national/global issues
- Place-based Education















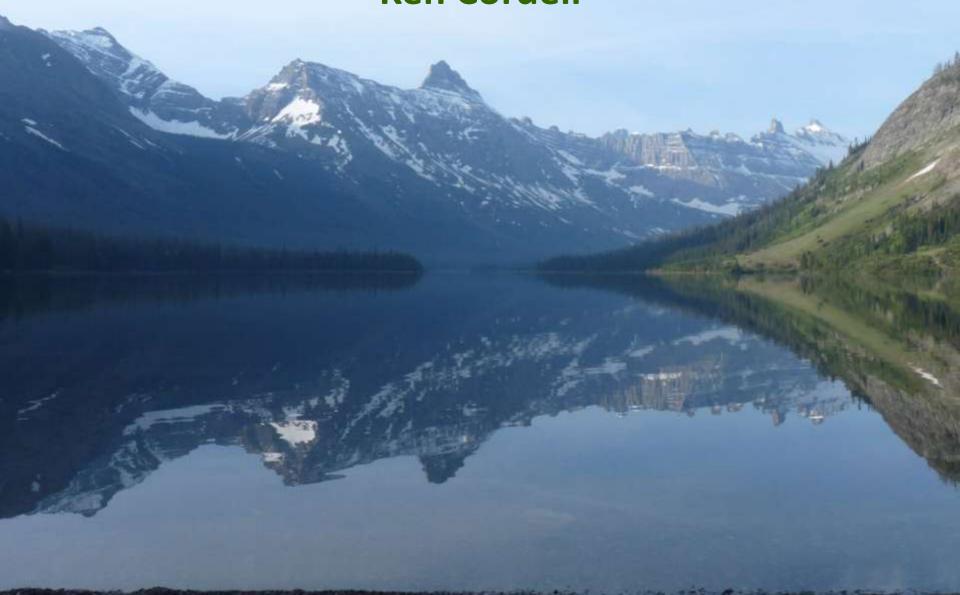
Attention Deficit Disorder—Frances Kuo





Adventure in a Bun Chris Loynes

How do Americans View Wilderness Ken Cordell







- Montana Outdoor Science School
- Audubon Conservation Education Center
- Earth Stewardship Program
- Montana Conservation Corps
- Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation
- Montana Discovery Foundation
 - Forest for Every Classroom
 - Youth Forest Monitoring Program

Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation

Our goal is not simply clearing trails, but creating relationships with people to wild places. Most of our volunteers have never spent a night in the woods, let alone used a cross cut saw to cut a fallen log. The people who start on a trip with us are not the same folks who leave. We create life changing experiences for folks and hopefully lifelong advocates for Wilderness and open space.

- A small non-profit who assists in maintaining the trail system of 'The Bob' (Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex)
- 2 full time staff and 4 seasonal crew leaders many who have started this type of work by volunteering for projects!









Montana Discovery Foundation Connecting community and nature through education

The Montana Discovery Foundation is organized to involve citizens in conserving and enhancing natural resources within the Helena National Forest and surrounding areas in order to achieve and maintain sustainable, healthy landscapes, resources, and communities.

















Forest for Every Classroom

A dynamic professional development program for educators focused on place-based approaches to education. Teachers who participate in FFEC gain experience, form relationships and increase their own knowledge so that they are able to foster student understanding of and appreciation for public and private forests in their communities.













Youth Forest Monitoring Program

















- 7-week summer internship
- Students entering grades 9-12
- Observing forest health in streams, soils, vegetation and wildlife
- Provide recommendations to the Forest
- Network with Forestry professionals

















- Riparian Fence Removal
- Recreation impact surveys
- Campsite obliterations in Scapegoat Wilderness











Biennial Surveys since 2003

- Tracking career paths, education focus and impact of YMFP on alumni
- 123 surveys sent out in 2011 42 returned
- Alumni represented all years of the program (1998 – 2011)
- Most surveys returned from 2007 alumni (College students)









2011 YFMP Survey Results

- 36% of participants had found employment with the Forest Service seasonal or full time
- **61%** were pursuing natural resource careers
- 73% were more likely to pursue a career in science and/or natural resources as a result of their YFMP experience
- 98% felt YFMP positively influenced their understanding of natural resource issues

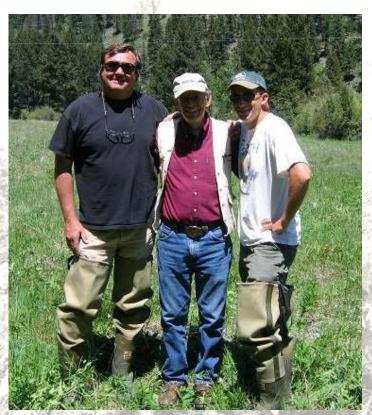








It was a wonderful opportunity as a student to learn about our land resources and meet people who have greatly influenced my life.
--2000, 2001 Alumnus











Gained an appreciation for natural resources and an understanding for our impact on the environment.

--2003 Alumnus

YFMP was a great learning experience allowing me the background to make educated decisions and opinions about the use of our public lands.

--2005 Alumnus

The program helped me to develop skills that have served me well over the years.

--2006, 2007 Alumn, non-resource career













Great first-time job, set me off on a path towards success! Gained an appreciation for natural resources and an understanding for our impact on the environment.

--2003 Alumnus









I felt that our opinions mattered when we gave our presentations at the end of the year. --2008 Alumnus











Youth Empowerment through YFMP

Students of YFMP...

- felt valued for their work and ideas
- connected with resource professionals who had a positive influence on their lives
- were inspired by their outdoor experience -- influencing their career path choice in many cases









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-Kurt Hahn









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